

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 057482

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TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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SUBJECT: UNHCR TRANSPORTATION OF VIETNAMESE AND
CAMBODIAN REFUGEES.

REF: STATE'S 16982 AND GENEVA 797 ;

1. DEPT NOTES UNHCR POLICY IS TO MEET THE COST OF TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN THIRD COUNTRIES FOR DISPLACED PERSONS ONLY WHERE NO OTHER SOURCE OF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE. AS NOTED REF A, DEPT IS ABLE TO PAY FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF INDOCHINESE REFUGEES TO THE AIRPORT IN THE U.S. NEAREST THE REFUGEE'S SPONSOR. U.S. GOVERNMENT EXPECTS TO HAVE FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE UNTIL JUNE 30, 1976. THUS, WE EXPECT THAT UNHCR FUNDING FOR SUCH MOVEMENT WOULD NOT BE USED UNTIL AFTER THAT DATE.

2. WITH RESPECT TO THE TRAVEL OF REFUGEES FROM THE U.S. TO THIRD COUNTRIES, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT CAN MEET THESE COSTS ONLY WHERE THE REFUGEE INDICATED AN INTENTION TO UNDERTAKE
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PAGE 02 STATE 057482

SUCH TRAVEL PRIOR TO LEAVING A U.S. RESETTLEMENT CENTER.

IN CASES WHERE A REFUGEE DID NOT SO INDICATE BUT NOW WISHES TO TRAVEL TO EUROPE FOR FAMILY REUNIFICATION OR OTHER HUMANITARIAN PURPOSES, WE UNDERSTAND THAT UNHCR HAS AN INITIAL QUOTA OF 100 PERSONS AND MAY BE PREPARED TO MEET A LARGER REQUIREMENT IF IT DEVELOPS.

3. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS ABOLISHED DISTINCTIONS BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES WITH RESPECT TO OUR POLICIES REGARDING SUPPORT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR REFUGEES APPROVED FOR ENTRY INTO THE U.S. OUR SOLE DISTINCTION NOW IS PROVIDED BY THE "MEANS" TEST WHICH PROVIDES THAT ANY REFUGEE FAMILY WHICH WOULD ARRIVE IN THE U.S. WITH MORE THAN \$4,000 PER CAPITA REMAINING WOULD BE ASKED TO PAY FOR THEIR OWN TRANSPORTATION. WE PAY FOR ALL OTHERS REGARDLESS OF POINT OF ORIGIN. WE WOULD HOPE THAT UNHCR, AS WELL, MIGHT AGREE TO PROVIDE SUCH SUPPORT FOR REFUGEES LEAVING THE U.S. ON A WORLD WIDE BASIS RATHER THAN ONLY TO EUROPE.

4. ONE OTHER POINT HAS COME TO THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION ON WHICH WE WOULD APPRECIATE UNHCR'S COMMENTS. WE UNDERSTAND FROM ICEM THAT UNHCR EXPECTS TO FUND SUCH TRAVEL ONLY BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL EXIT AND ENTRY POINTS AND DOES NOT EXPECT TO FUND INTERNAL OR DOMESTIC TRAVEL. AS INDICATED, ABOVE, THE U.S. GOVERNMENT PROGRAM FUNDS TRAVEL FOR THE REFUGEE FROM HIS LOCATION AT THE TIME HE IS APPROVED FOR THE PROGRAM TO THE AIRPORT NEAREST HIS SPONSOR IN THE U.S. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE DESIRABLE FOR THE UNHCR TO FOLLOW THIS FUNDING POLICY FOR A SOMEWHAT SMALLER NUMBER OF CASES ON THIS BASIS RATHER THAN ITS CURRENT POLICY, WHICH LEAVES UNRESOLVED THE QUESTION OF HOW INLAND TRANSPORTATION IS TO BE PAID. KISSINGER

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